P770137-0992

August [illegible], 1977

EXCISE

Dear Senator Javits:

This is in response to your letter of August 1, asking for the Department's comments on the recent newspaper column by Les Whitten and Jack Anderson on the claim against Israel in connection with the U.S.S. Liberty incident of June 1967. Your constituent, [redacted] is interested. (b)(6)

The Government of Israel has discharged fully the claims of individuals and a small U.S. Government claim arising from this incident. The Department of State has pressed the remaining claim, for compensation for physical damage to the vessel itself, on a number of occasions. The Israeli Government denied responsibility but offered to pay a nominal sum which was rejected. During the past few years this claim has been permitted to remain outstanding, but the Department of State maintains that the claim is a valid obligation of the Government of Israel.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

The Honorable
Jacob K. Javits,
United States Senate.

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